



Old Fletton Urban District Council.

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# ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

for 1972.





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# **OLD FLETON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.**

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## **MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE**

(as at 31st December, 1972)

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Councillor M. H. HOLL (Chairman)

MRS. M. Y. BUDDING

T. E. J. CROFTS

MRS. P. FISHPOOL

W. R. CASHMORE

A. D. COLEMAN

G. W. GOODALE

J. W. B. TAYLOR

G. W. WILSON

## **STAFF**

Medical Officer of Health ..... PHILIP V. CANT, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector ..... L. DEARDEN, A.I.A.S.,  
A.M.I.P.H.E., M.A.P.H.I.

Barrister-at-Law

Resigned 3.12.72

Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector.....T. A. WHITE, M.A.P.H.I.  
Appointed 4.12.72



To the Old Fletton Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I present herewith my fifteenth Annual Report on the Sanitary Conditions of the District for the year ending December 31st 1972.

Old Fletton lies immediately to the South of the City and has as its main industries brick-making, the manufacture of sugar, engineering, the blending of honey and printing. Many of the residents earn their living by working in the City.

The Registrar General estimated the mid-year population of the district to have been 13,700 an increase of 150 over the previous year.

There were 218 live births during the year being three less than in 1971. The crude birth rate was 15.9 per 1,000 population and the adjusted rate 15.6. The rate for England and Wales was 14.8 per 1,000.

Six per cent of the live births were illegitimate as against nine per cent for England and Wales.

There were 7 still-births and 5 infant deaths during the year, giving a still-birth rate of 31 per 1,000 total births, and an infantile mortality rate of 23 per 1,000 live births. This year these rates are high but they fluctuate considerably because a total of 218 births or thereabouts is a small number on which to work out statistics.

There were 130 deaths during the year, 76 males and 54 females. The crude death rate was 9.5 per 1,000 population and the adjusted rate 12.3 per 1,000 population. The death rate for England and Wales was 12.1 for the period.

The most frequent causes of death were heart disease 41, cancer 22 and cerebrovascular disease 16.

Eight deaths were due to cancer of the lung. Admittedly six of these persons were over 65 years of age, but my advice is to cut out smoking, which greatly reduces the chance of dying of this disease.

There was again little infectious disease notified during the year, only 22 cases in all. Seven of these cases were due to food poisoning, six of which occurred amongst the Italian population due to eating portions of a large Torta after a Confirmation Service in Peterborough. The infection was afterwards found in the cake filling.

Five cases of Dysentery originated in a children's nursery in Peterborough.

In December we lost, with regret, our Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector Mr. Leonard Dearden, who resigned to take up an appointment with the Department of the Environment. He had held the post since 1953 and had given much valuable and efficient service. Our very best wishes go with him in his new venture.

Mr. Dearden's Deputy Mr. T. A. White was appointed to succeed him throughout the remaining life of the Council and will fill the post admirably.

In closing I wish to thank the Members of the Council and their Officers and Staff and my Professional Colleagues in the District for all the help which they have given me during the year.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area .....	3029 acres
Estimated Population (mid 1972) .....	13,700
Density of persons per acre .....	4.52
Number of Inhabited Houses, end of 1972 .....	4,586
Rateable Value, 31/12/72 .....	£692,341
Value of new 1p rate, 31/3/72 .....	£6,498

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births .....	218
Live birth rate per 1,000 population .....	15.9
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births .....	6
Still-births .....	7
Still-births rate per 1,000 live and still-births .....	31
Total live and still-births .....	225
Infant deaths .....	5
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total .....	23
Perinatal mortality rate per 1,000 total births .....	44
Maternal deaths (including abortion) .....	Nil
Maternal mortality rate per 1,000 live and still-births .....	Nil
Death rate per 1,000 population .....	9.5

INFANT DEATHS

	1967	1968	1969	1970	1971	1972
Actual Number of Deaths	5	3	4	3	7	5
Rates All Infants Per 1,000 Live Births	20	13	17	13	32	23

Deaths from Cancer including Leukaemia .....	22
Malignant Neoplasm Lung, Bronchus .....	8
Ischaemic Heart Disease .....	37

Comparison of rates with those of England & Wales.

	Per 1,000 Population				Per 1,000 Live Births	Per 1,000 Total Births
	Live Birth Rate	Ad-justed Birth Rate	Crude Death Rate	Ad-justed Death Rate	Infantile Mortality Rate	Still Births Rate
Old Fletton U.D.C.	15.9	15.6	9.5	12.3	23	31
England & Wales	14.8	14.8	12.1	12.1	17	12

Comparability Factor for Births .....	0.98
Comparability Factor for Deaths .....	1.29

(The Comparability Factors are figures by which the crude-birth and death rates need to be multiplied so as to find the adjusted rates. The adjusted rates are then comparable with the rates for England and Wales, or the adjusted rates of any other place in the Country.

The Registrar General calculates the factors from information available to him concerning, amongst other things, the age and sex structure of the population.)



The following table shows the classification of deaths from all causes (Registrar-General's figures) :—

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, oesophagus	2	—	2
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	—	1	1
Malignant neoplasm, intestine	1	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	7	1	8
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, prostate	2	—	2
Other malignant neoplasms	2	3	5
Benign and unspecified neoplasms	1	—	1
Diabetes mellitus	2	—	2
Other diseases of nervous system	1	3	4
Ischaemic heart disease	21	16	37
Other forms of heart disease	2	2	4
Cerebrovascular disease	8	8	16
Other diseases of circulatory system	7	2	9
Pneumonia	3	5	8
Bronchitis and emphysema	2	—	2
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	2
Intestinal obstruction and hernia	3	1	4
Other diseases of digestive system	1	1	2
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	—	1
Other diseases, genito-urinary system	3	2	5
Congenital anomalies	—	1	1
Other causes of perinatal mortality	3	—	3
Symptoms and ill defined conditions	1	1	2
Motor vehicle accidents	2	—	2
Suicide and self-inflicted injuries	—	2	2
<b>TOTAL All causes</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>130</b>



The following table gives the incidence of notifiable diseases (other than tuberculosis) in the area during 1972.

[illegible]

**Tuberculosis.**

AGE PERIODS	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5 .....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—25.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55.....	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—65.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upwards.....	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTAL:—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

I am,  
Your obedient servant,  
PHILIP V. CANT,  
Medical Officer of Health.

The Child Health Centre,  
Whittlesey Road,  
Stanground,  
Nr. Peterborough. PE2 8RB  
Tel. Peterborough 68010

To the Medical Officer of Health:

Sir,

I beg to submit my report for the year ending December 1972.

## HOUSING

The Council's policy of providing elderly persons' accommodation on infill sites continued during the year and a total of 18 bungalows were completed on such sites. Work proceeded throughout the year on the flats being built for the Council by the Development Corporation, the first one being let mid-December. Site works were started on Burystead in November.

The policy of selling Council houses to sitting tenants continued with a total of 109 such sales taking place compared to 30 in 1971. A total of 26 valuations of private houses were made in order to provide mortgage facilities for the purchase of older houses.

A total of 36 grants were made, 26 standard and 10 discretionary, for the improvement of older houses. The amount of grant paid was £7,795.

Central heating installations continued during the year with 60 houses being centrally heated to Parker Morris standard, 28 by gas and 32 by solid fuel.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) .....	1947
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose .....	2335
(2) Total number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation .....	Nil
(3) Number of dwelling-houses(exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ....	Nil

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers excluding those dealt with by Improvement Grants .....	124
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—

(A) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 12 of the Housing Act, 1957 :—

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ..... | Nil |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—      |     |
| (a) By owners .....   | Nil |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....   | Nil |

(B) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... | 1   |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—             |     |
| (a) By owners .....   | 1   |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owners .....   | Nil |

(C) Proceedings under Section 42 Part III of the Housing Act, 1957

**CLEARANCE AREAS**

- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Number of Clearance Areas declared during the year .....                    | 1   |
| (2) Total number of houses included in (1) above .....                          | 15  |
| (3) Number of houses included by reason of unfitness for human habitation ..... | 15  |
| (4) Number of houses included by reason of bad arrangement, etc. ....           | Nil |
| (5) Number of families displaced during the year .....                          | 14  |
| (6) Number of houses demolished during the year .....                           | 7   |
- (D) Proceedings under Sections 16, 17 & 35 of the Housing Act 1957.
- |   |     |
|---|-----|
| (1) Houses made subject to closing Orders. .... | Nil |
|---|-----|

**SLUM CLEARANCE**

Clearance Area No. 18 (North Street) was confirmed during the year, with a total of 15 houses being involved. Some difficulty has been experienced in re-housing the occupants, but this is being carried out gradually.

**SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL**

The Sewage Works continued to operate efficiently throughout the year. The final effluent was sampled regularly by the Great Ouse



River Authority, and of the 8 samples taken, 6 were satisfactory, one only marginally unsatisfactory, and another unsatisfactory because of damage to the filters by vandals. Two large lagoons were emptied at the end of the year, with the sludge removed being put onto land within the curtilage of the Sewage Works. It became apparent during the operation that this work could only be a short term measure, and a more permanent way of dealing with the sludge problem would have to be found. That section of the Folksworth sewer within our boundaries was completed early in the year. A cross connection from our sewer to act as a relief in periods of heavy rain was made at Belle Vue. Since then no flooding has occurred in the Belle Vue or Whittlesey Road areas.

## **REFUSE DISPOSAL**

A weekly collection was maintained throughout the year. We started issuing plastic bin liners at bank holiday times and this had the effect of shortening the period after the holiday in returning to the weekly collection schedule. Bulk collections were continued as often as staff availability and the normal household collections would allow. We continued to tip at the site rented from L.B.C., but it is becoming apparent that soil for covering the tip face will not be so readily available in the future.

## **FOOD AND DRUGS**

During the year over  $3\frac{1}{2}$  cwts of food were condemned as unfit, and disposed of on the Council's tip.

The food trades in the district are made up as follows:-

- 1 Hotel
- 1 Bakehouse
- 10 Works Canteens
- 7 School Kitchens
- 6 Fried Fish
- 6 Butchers
- 1 Meat Produce
- 34 Grocery
- 14 Licensed Premises

Inspection of these premises was made throughout the year and no action was required to be taken under Sections 16 or 19 of the Food Hygiene (General) Regulations 1970.

**POULTRY PROCESSING PREMISES**

There are no poultry processing premises in the district.

**OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963**

At the end of 1972 there were 41 premises within the Urban District covered by the above Act. Briefly speaking the Act covers an office or shop where a person, not of the immediate family of the owner, is employed for more than 21 hours per week. In addition to the 41 quoted above there are other premises covered by the Act where action is enforceable by the Inspector of Factories.

Altogether there are 527 persons employed in registered premises within the District. One accident was reported during the year.

**PETROLEUM ACTS AND REGULATIONS**

The number of licensed installations is 23, all of which were inspected during the year.

**RODENT CONTROL**

This service is carried out by one of your gardeners spending part of his time attending to complaints of rats and mice. No resistance has been noticed to anti-coagulant poisons and these continue to be used.

**CLEAN AIR ACT**

No new Smoke Control Orders were made during the year, but the numbers of houses within existing areas increased because of development at Bakers Lane and on the Wilson's Estate, Stanground.

**NOISE**

No industrial noise problems arose during the year, but some difficulty was experienced arising from noise from a place of public entertainment. Noise readings are in the process of being taken with a view to possible future action.

**NUISANCES**

Abated as a result of informal action	.....	.....	.....	124
Abated as a result of Statutory action	.....	.....	.....	Nil
Offensive trades (Health Act 1936)	.....	No. established	.....	Nil
		No. of inspections	.....	Nil

**DISINFESTATION.**

**Rats and Mice**

**Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949**

No. of houses inspected	101
No. of houses treated and cleared	101

**INFECTIOUS DISEASES—VISITS AND DISINFECTION**

Cases of Infectious Diseases reported	13
No. of Visits	73
Premises disinfected :— (a) Tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Others	Nil
Schools disinfected	Nil

**Common Lodging Houses.**

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the District.

**Factories Act 1961**

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories without power	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Factories with power	25	6	Nil	Nil
Other Premises,	6	Nil	Nil	Nil
Cases in which defects were found	Nil			

**Outworkers.** There are 2 outworkers in the District, an inspection was made at their houses.

I should like to thank the Council and my colleagues for their support and co-operation during the year.

A. WHITE,  
*Surveyor and Public Health Inspector.*











